

APR 21 2003

(MODIFIED) PTO/SB/30 (08-00)

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application
filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/714,340
Filing Date	16 November 2000
First Named Inventor	William N. WEAVER
Group Art Unit	3721
Examiner Name	L. Tran
Attorney Docket Number	ITW-12833

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

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1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. ☐ Previously submitted

i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declarations

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. ☒ Other Declaration of William N. Weaver (3 pages) with one (1) drawing sheet (Figs. 10-11)

2. Miscellaneous

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 19-3550

i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e)

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. ☒ Other any deficiency in the enclosed fee

b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 750.00 enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Kevin D. Erickson	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	38736
Signature	<i>K.D. Erickson</i>	Date	14 April 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

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Name (Print/Type)	Kevin D. Erickson
Signature	<i>K.D. Erickson</i>
Date	14 April 2003

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Applicants: William N. WEAVER)
Robert E. UNGAR)
Lonnie R. SEYMOUR)
Serial No.: 09/714,340) Group: 3721
Filed: 16 November 2000) Examiner: L.B. Tran
Title: SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR)
PACKAGING CONTAINERS)

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants amend the subject application as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for packaging multiple
containers, the system comprising the steps of:

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Date

K. D. Glick
Signature

Serial No.: 09/714,340

moving a carrier through an applying machine, the carrier constructed of flexible plastic having a plurality of elongated apertures aligned in transverse ranks, which elongated apertures are oriented in a longitudinal direction of the carrier and have a longitudinal pitch between a center of each adjacent elongated aperture, the longitudinal pitch having a first length;

moving a plurality of containers through the applying machine, each container of the plurality of containers having a maximum diameter having a second length at least approximately 10% shorter than the first length and each container of the plurality of containers spaced at the first length apart from an adjacent container by the applying machine; and

positioning the carrier over the plurality of containers whereby each elongated aperture engages with one of the containers to form a package having a container pitch between a center of adjacent containers approximately equal to the second length.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the elongated apertures, in an unstressed condition prior to application to the plurality of containers, are approximately four to six times longer than wide.

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3. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the carrier further comprises a plurality of relief holes positioned between adjacent longitudinal rows of elongated apertures.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 3 wherein longitudinal extremities of the relief holes overlap end portions of adjacent elongated apertures in the longitudinal direction.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the first length is approximately 3.0".

6. (Original) The system of Claim 5 wherein the second length is approximately 2.6".

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the first length is approximately 1.15 times greater than the second length.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein an overall length of the carrier is reduced after the carrier is positioned over the plurality of containers to form a package.

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9. (Currently Amended) An applying system for packaging multiple containers in a carrier, each container having a height and a maximum diameter, the applying system comprising: an applying machine accommodating a plurality of containers spaced at intervals by the applying machine and the carrier having adjacent longitudinal rows of elongated apertures with a longitudinal pitch between each elongated aperture having a first length that is greater than the maximum diameter and, after application to the plurality of containers juxtaposed relative to one another, the container pitch between adjacent containers within the carrier is a second length, at least approximately 10% less than the first length and approximately equal to the maximum diameter.

10. (Original) The applying system of Claim 9 wherein the carrier further comprises a plurality of relief holes positioned between adjacent longitudinal rows of elongated apertures.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 9 wherein the first length is approximately 3.0".

12. (Original) The system of Claim 9 wherein the second length is approximately 2.6".